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T O

MR. HUTCHINSON.

September 10th, 1792.

SIR,

THOUGH the invidious and malicious letter addressed to Dr. Garnett, and dated the 3d of September, is not *adorned* with the signature of your name, yet it is well known to be written by your order, and that you distributed copies of it: for this reason I do not hesitate to address myself to you; for, though no person will ever believe that you are capable of writing even so miserable a composition as it is, yet if it was done

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by



by a hireling paid by you, it is the same as if you had done it yourself.

As the letter is anonymous, Dr. Garnett cannot with propriety, and I hope will not attend to it, but suffer it to sink into that oblivion from which nothing but his notice could rescue it. With regard to Dr. Garnett's "Statement of Facts," though I am sorry he should stoop so low as to notice William Thackwray, yet he was in some measure obliged to do it, for Thackwray's conduct was an infamous attempt to injure him in the eyes of the public; but why should he or his brethren attempt to injure Dr. G. a person to whom they are under more obligation than to any other man: his treatise has not only already had a great effect, but in all human probability will still have a greater, in bringing company to Harrogate; for I have heard numbers of the company declare,



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declare, and I appeal to the innkeepers themselves if they have not heard the same, that they should have had no thoughts of visiting Harrogate if they had not seen the treatise?

YOUR hireling has affected to despise and deny the utility of a medical education, but be assured, that whatever might be the case a century ago, the public are too wise to be duped by so shallow an artifice, the only refuge of hoary ignorance; and it is a known fact that the very wretch whom you employ to assassinate characters, the basest employment in which a man can be engaged, though he is obliged by necessity to make the best of a bad cause, despises your ignorance and laughs at your folly. —Who but a man entirely ignorant of chemistry would have called its utility in question? But I ought to make an allowance, for it is certainly the best apology.

that a man can make for his ignorance of useful knowledge, to affect to despise it, and endeavour to make weak people believe it of no use.—I shall not here attempt to prove so self-evident a proposition, as that chemistry is one of the principal pillars which supports the fabric of medicine, and that where it is wanting the fabric will not only totter, but fall: should any person doubt it, I refer him to the Preface to Dr. Garnett's Treatise on the Harrogate Waters, where he will meet with arguments convincing and unanswerable. But though Dr. Garnett's knowledge of chemistry is great, which cannot be denied by his enemies, and which is even indirectly admitted in your hireling's letter, yet every person who has had an opportunity of conversing with the Doctor, or of reading his publications, must be convinced that chemistry constitutes the smallest part of his knowledge, and though in
years

years you are old; and he, as your hireling terms him, *imberbis puer*, yet, in understanding, your situations are exactly reversed.

If medical knowledge was measured by the length of the beard, the best physician would be a he-goat; * but as a man must certainly be possessed of great merit, when his enemies can throw nothing but his youth in his teeth, so that medical man must be a stupid fool indeed for whom his friends can say no more than that he has been in practice a great many years, and has killed a great many

* This idea seems to have entered the dense heads of the keepers of stables, who generally retain a goat in their service to prescribe for their horses.—Should William Thackwray keep one to recommend to his company, it would at least have this advantage, that its directions would be harmless, which cannot be said of all yours.

patients, which may be said of any dunce, who has, like you, brandished a pestle twenty or thirty or even forty years. Your ignorance is so great that I do not believe there is an apothecary's apprentice in the county of York, who has been two years at his business, who does not possess more medical knowledge than you; even your best friends confess that you are a very weak man, and a man of no science; why then do they trust their lives to one whose judgment they would despise on every other occasion?

YOUR attempts to prejudice the company at Harrogate against Dr. Garnett, by misrepresentations and malicious insinuations, are similar to those, which, to my knowledge, you made use of against his predecessors, Dr. Armistead and Dr. Wilson, but they will not now have the desired effect; for whatever abilities those gentlemen possessed, the public

public had not an opportunity of knowing them, though they might always suspect that person to be a man of merit whose character is abused by those who are interested in his fall.—Dr. Garnett has however given the public a full and fair opportunity of judging of his medical abilities, and they *will* judge for themselves. I suppose you remember that you propagated several malicious and false reports concerning a young gentleman at Knaresborough, and, refusing to give him the satisfaction which, as a gentleman, he had a right to demand, he was obliged to exercise the *horse-whip*, which he did in so dexterous a manner that I dare say you will never forget it. Take care lest your scandalous tongue should again draw upon you a similar species of correction.

CONCERNING William Thackwray,
whose character your hireling, I suppose,
by

by your order; says, has long stood fair in the estimation of the public. I have only to observe, that you are either the greatest *hypocrite* that ever lived, or that you have changed your sentiments strangely; for I declare, and I appeal to the company then present, that you said at the Queen's Head, one day after dinner, that William Thackwray's property had been chiefly acquired by robbing his uncle, while he lived with him in the character, I think, of a waiter. But this is the manner in which you treat all your friends. You have taken the liberty to speak in the most disrespectful manner, and propagated the most scandalous reports concerning several respectable families at Knaresborough, at the same time that you attended them as an apothecary, and were deriving your very subsistence from them. Some of these, with other circumstances equally honorable to you, shall be made public, should
you.

you think it proper to *honor* me with an answer.

You know that you never studied in any university, and that, in Knareborough, where it is known that every apothecary in the place has had a much more liberal education than yourself, you are never consulted as a physician; and that it is only at Harrogate where these circumstances are not known, that you act both the doctor and the apothecary.

BEFORE I conclude this letter, I shall mention a fact, which may serve to shew why you are so great a favorite with William Thackwray, and convince the public how well you deserve that regard which he shews you.—In the lifetime of Dr. Armistead, whom I knew and esteemed, the master of the house where I then was, whose name I shall not reveal to the public, as he has for some
time

time been *obliged* to retire from business, addressed the doctor as follows. “ Sir, we cannot recommend you because you do not recommend bathing often enough, but we recommend Mr. Hutchinson, who always recommends bathing to every patient, and persuades them to stay a long time at Harrogate.”—The doctor’s reply does honor to his memory as a man and a physician.—“ Whenever,” says he, “ bathing is proper for a patient, I advise it; but no mercenary motives whatever shall induce me to betray the trust committed to me by my patients, by ordering what may be prejudicial to their health.” I was myself educated in the study of medicine, and though accidental circumstances have rendered it unnecessary for me to follow it as a profession, I may be allowed to call myself

“ A skilful Leech by painful study made,

“ Who loves the science, but detests the trade.”

And

And I hope the time is near at hand, when the public will no longer be blinded by the tricks and impositions by which the *trade* of physic has been supported, but will revere and encourage men of science. Mankind will now no longer be dazzled with the baby-house trumpery of a *muséum*, nor think that science or learning lies hid beneath rusty coins, or rags worn by the beggars in the Sandwich Islands; on the contrary, they will look upon such collections as proofs that the weak understanding is not able to stretch its ideas farther than a cockle-shell or a butterfly; in short, they will be of the same opinion as a friend of yours,* that it is a mode of employment, which no man of real genius ever did or can stoop to.

But I fear that you may be inclined to think I am growing too severe: I

* Mr. Benj. Goosequill.

should

should be sorry to touch your feelings too acutely, though I apprehend that can scarcely be done. I could tell tales, and true ones, which would exhibit you a piteous spectacle to the public: But,

“ No Mohawk I, in scenes of horror bred,

“ I scorn to scalp the dying and the dead:

“ Or thou should see that with a trifling toil—

“ On fate’s gridir’n I could make thee broil,

“ Turn tuneful butcher, cut thee into quarters,

“ And serve thee up for one of Folly’s martyrs.”

I SHALL take my leave of you for the present,

And am, &c. &c.

M.



